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PREPARING FOR THE VIET NAM WORKERS' PARTY'S 40th FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

THE Secretariat of the C.C. of the Viet Nam Workers' Party has just given instructions on the commemoration of the 40th founding anniversary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party (Feb. 3). The first of the 31 slogans put forth read as follows:

1. Hail the 40th founding anniversary of our Party!

2. All for our victory over the US aggressors!

3. Let our entire Party, army and people closely unite around the Party's Central Committee to fulfill the last wishes of President Ho Chi Minh, defeat the US aggressors and successfully build socialism!

4. For national independence and freedom, let us resolutely surmount all difficulties and hardships, persevere in, and step up, the war of resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, till total victory, liberate the South, defend the North and achieve the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country!

The other slogans pay homage to the valiant combativeness of the armymen and people in the heroic South and North; call on various sections of the people to discharge their responsibilities; show gratitude to the Parties, governments and peoples of socialist countries, to the international communist and workers' movement, the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, and peace-loving people all over the world for their support to the Vietnamese people's struggle; wish success to the action of the American people against the US war of aggression in Viet Nam, and to the fight of the Indo-Chinese peoples against the common enemy—US imperialism; express staunch support to the legitimate effort of the Arab peoples against the Israeli aggressors, and of the world's peoples for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

20th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the DRVN and Socialist Countries

INDEFECTIBLE HISTORICAL TIES

TWENTY years ago, in the second half of January and the first days of February 1950, while our National Resistance against French colonialists was at its fiercest, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam was recognized by the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and the other European and Asian socialist countries, and diplomatic relations were set up between those countries and the DRVN.

One should look back a little to realize all the meaning and importance of this political event. Since Winter 1947, as a result of the failure of the French offensive against Viet Bac, the Vietnamese Resistance had entered a stage when the strategic retreat of our forces had ceased whereas we were still incapable of launching a general counter-offensive. One thing however was certain: the DRVN, which the colonialists had hoped to wipe out in no time, proved to be in a position to confront a big imperialist army. The years that followed 1947 were used by the Vietnamese people to consolidate their people's demo-

cratic State, their armed forces, their economy, their finances and to enhance their fighting potential so as to oppose to the invaders an ever stiffer and more successful resistance. The achievements of our people were keeping abreast of the progress of the world revolutionary movement. October 1949 saw the triumph of the Chinese Revolution. The geographical isolation of the DRVN came to an end. From now on, our country shared common frontiers with the socialist world. Conditions were thus ripe for the *de jure* recognition of the DRVN by the socialist countries.

This step, which confirmed the maturity of our State, was bound to contribute at the same time to the growth of the latter. It heightened considerably the international prestige of the DRVN, increased manifold our people's strength, and gave a new impulse to our struggle for the "safeguard" of national independence. Our historical victory at Dien Bien Phu and our resounding successes from 1950 to 1954 were indissolubly linked with the support and assistance given us by the Soviet Union, People's China

and the other socialist countries.

After the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements, the socialist countries, always at our side, helped us generously in our economic rehabilitation and building of socialism in the North, and showed active sympathy with the fight waged by the Vietnamese in both zones for the achievement of national reunification, in face of Washington's imperialistic designs. The support and assistance of the socialist countries grew with the landing *en masse* of US troops in the South and the unleashing of the air war of destruction against the North. While relying mainly on their own strength, our people also highly value the part of brotherly socialist countries in the making of our great successes over the most powerful imperialist country.

The DRVN, unflinching in face of US assaults, enjoys now a prestige higher than ever before. Following in the steps of the socialist countries and many countries of the third world, Sweden recognized her in 1969, whereas

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People's militia of X. Island (Quang Ninh mining area, Bac Bo Gulf) in drill



South Viet Nam

① Annihilation of Important Enemy Forces:

— 2,500 Adverse Troops Put out of Action in Two Weeks in 3 Provinces of the Mekong Delta.

— 1,800 Others Wiped Out in Central and Southern Trung Bo in 6 Days.

② 26 Aircraft Downed or Damaged in 16 Days in the Mountain Area between Khe Sanh and A Bia

③ Over One Hundred Targets Hit by PLAF Artillery from January 17 to 21.

The Nixon Administration's One Year's Crimes in Viet Nam

(Excerpts from the Jan. 17 statement of the DRVN Commission for Investigation of the US Imperialists' War Crimes in Viet Nam)

INCE Nixon entered the White House on January 20, 1969, a year has elapsed and far from "finding soon a peaceful settlement to the Viet Nam problem" and "quickly putting an end to the war in Viet Nam", the new US President has been pursuing the neo-colonialist war of aggression, committing more and more atrocities against the Vietnamese people with new and even crueler methods.

ACCELERATED PACIFICATION PROGRAMME

THE Nixon administration has been putting into practice the utterly vicious "accelerated pacification programme" as backbone of its "Vietnamization" plan. Such an accelerated pacification was undertaken after 14 years of bloody "pacification" and setbacks, could but signify even more savage massacre and extermination. Operation "Barbarossa" had risen from an average of 40-50 a day in January 1969 to over 70-80 a day in November and December 1969. US puppet and satellite troops were herded into rural areas outside South Viet Nam where Son My type slaughters were frequent. From January 1 to February 1, 1969, during a big sweep directed against Binh Lang, an regiment, Son My, more than 8,000 US and puppet troops killed on the spot over 300 civilians, herded about 10,000 people in Van Phanh area near Quang Ngai to concentration camps. On February 21, 1969, US aircraft and artillery bombed Krong H'Rhun (Kontum province) where more than 10,000 Cambodian refugees, international minority had been concentrated, killing over 150 and wounding thousands of people.

From November 11 to December 16, 1969, during the sweep code-named "Sea Tiger" directed against 12 villages in Thanh Phuoc district and 5 villages of One Son district (Quang Nam province), 8 battalions of puppet and satellite infantry murdered over 700 South Vietnamese civilians, burnt down over 1,000 houses, destroyed thousands of hectares of crop, captured thousands of people and took them to concentration camps or to unknown destinations.

'FREE-FIRE ZONES'

THE Nixon government intensified the use of its Air Force. Now, all artillery against populated areas, many of which had been defined "free-fire zones". Every day, thousands of sorties of helicopter gun-

ships were flown to "hunt" the population. Strategic B-52s carried out carpet-bombings with a degree of fierceness never seen under Johnson, wiping out entire villages, devastating large areas of crop fields. From data supplied by the US Defence Department itself, B-52 strikes rose from 157 in January 1969, to nearly 200 in December 1969. The daily average of sorties of fixed-wing aircraft also climbed from over 200 in January 1969, to nearly 400 in December 1969, in ferocious attacks against populated areas. Since the beginning of 1969, more than 1,200,000 tons of bombs were dropped on South Viet Nam. B-52s alone discharged 240,000 tons of bombs in the first 6 months. US artillery fired at random billions of shells of all calibres. US warships daily shelled areas outside of Son My, and US guns 20,000 shells, on Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces.

TONIC CHEMICALS

PARALLEL to those indiscriminate bombardments, the Nixon government stepped up the use of toxic chemicals, gases, napalm and phosphorus bombs to a level hitherto unknown in the history of war, endangering the life of the population, especially women and children, destroying the sources, and upsetting the economic life of the South Vietnamese people and even the vegetal and animal life. Over 255,000 people were affected and more than 60,000 hectares of fields and orchards completely ruined by such chemicals. Recently, in December 1969, US expeditionary troops sprayed toxic chemicals over 6 villages in the vicinity of Huu city, withering rice seedlings, cassava, sweet potatoes and tea plantations, denuding a whole area 16 km in length along the rail-road from Phu Bai to Huu.

PITTING VIETNAMESE AGAINST VIETNAMESE

THE Nixon government egged on the puppet junta to speed up its military build-up to 2 years of age, improve equipment of the puppet army, urgently open crash courses for the handling of the new weapons. The US turned over to the puppet army 700,000 M-16 guns, 2 squadrons of A-37 fighter-bombers, a squadron of UH-1 helicopters, increased its cannons by 50 per cent and given it 229 more warships; sent 7,200 puppet officers and men to the US for military training; gradually

unrelentingly carpet-bombed with B-52 population centres in Quang Binh province and Vinh Linh area with 5,340 tons of explosive to

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handed over to the puppet forces a number of military bases such as the My Tho naval base, the Nha Trang air base, etc. The puppet army, which had reacted to anyone who favoured peace, neutrality, coalition, closed down newspapers, persecuted the intellectuals, victimized religious communities.

CRIMES AGAINST NORTH VIET NAM

REGARDS North Viet Nam, the Nixon government set up its "maximum military pressure" policy grossly encroaching upon the DRVN's sovereignty and endangering its security, piling up crimes, in the hope of winning a "position of strength" at the Paris Conference.

Violent air and artillery bombardments preceded the

children under 14, of Phu Son hamlet (Binh Hoa village), escaped from the slaughter. An octogenarian woman, Mrs To Thi Chinh of Hien Luong hamlet (Binh Hoa village), was crushed by an armoured car.

In a statement issued on Jan. 19, the Committee for Defense of the US People from Imperialists and their Henchmen's Crimes in South Viet Nam exposed the following crime:

From November 11 to 16, 1969, the US aggression deployed 8 infantry battalions (including 0 of puppet and 2 of Pak Jung (Hi tron), 350 armed agents and 400 armed regiments with 92 vehicles of all denominations more than 50 guns, hundreds of aircraft, under the command of many US officers, in an "accelerated pacification" sweep, led by the 4th Division, against 12 villages of Thang Cat district and 5 villages of Que Son district, Quang Nam province.

The statement added:

It should be recalled that this was not the first massacre of defenceless

A NEW ATROCITY IN QUANG NAM (SOUTH VIET NAM)

action, in which the soldiers waded through blood. In only one day, November 11, 1969, they slaughtered 349 people, mostly children and women, in Lac Cat hamlet, Bau Binh Thuong, Bau Binh Ha, Duy An, Ha Tay hamlets of Binh Duong village. In the first hamlet, they herded 57 civilians in Trang Cat and exterminated them with Claymore mines. A 10-month-old baby survived, protected by the bodies of his mother and other victims. In the second and third, they mowed down 39 people in Mr Tho's shelter and 15 others in Phung's undivided compound. The families in Bau Binh Ha, Duy An and Ha Tay were massacred to the last man.

In two days, November 11 and 12, 1969, they killed 343 people in Binh Giang village, 125 in Binh Trieu village and 80 in Binh Hoa village. In Ha Binh hamlet (Binh Dan village), most men took from work were marched off to Binh Tinh post, where they were lined up and shot dead. Mr Phu, 70, of Phu Hoa hamlet (Binh Hoa village), was put to the torture, and strangled to death. Mrs Hoa, a 25-year-old woman of Binh Tuy hamlet (Binh Giang village) was beaten to death and her body was afterwards pelted with stones. Mr Do Thanh Mich, 59, and Mr Nguyen Thoan, 57, were cut down at the entrance of a shelter. Two 17-year-old boys were savagely tortured and finished with three bursts of machine-guns fire each. None of Mr. Su's family of 10, including 7

that of the Dai Loc, Hoa Vang, Dien Ban, Duy Xuyen, Thang Binh, Tam Ky, and Phu Nhieu districts of Quang Nam province has been the scene of so many saturnalia of slaying easily disposed of US President Nixon's claim that Son My was only an isolated case and the US Administration's assertion that US troops were in South Viet Nam to "defend freedom" and "the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese" concluded the statement.

"Vietnamization" of the War

WHITHER NIXON'S NEW FORMULA: PUPPET GROUND FORCE + U.S. FIRE POWER?

MILITARILY, "Vietnamization" of the war, the key-stone of Nixon's Viet Nam policy, boils down to the following formula:

PUPPET GROUND FORCE + US FIRE POWER

The unknown in that formula advanced by Washington must be a position of strength enabling the US aggressors to attain at low cost their goals in Viet Nam: to put South Viet Nam under the US thumb by shoring up there a neo-colonialist regime represented by the puppet administration in Saigon; it has installed in power against the people's will, occupy militarily the South for an indefinite period by refusing to withdraw totally in a short time the US expeditionary force and foreign mercenaries. This is what Nixon and his negotiators have hypocritically called an "honourable solution" to their criminal adventure.

Nixon and company think that the puppet troops who are badly trounced by their adversaries, hated by the population, despised by their "allies", divided and disorganized, can be galvanized by a massive transfusion of modern weapons and stauncher support of an important contingent of US troops.

They think that this is feasible for the puppet troops have only to be on their own in a defensive strategy. As for the US forces, when the cumbersome, costly, inefficient, and, to boot, demoralized infantrymen have been withdrawn, they would make war only with aircraft, artillery, armoured vehicles and warships. US losses would thus be lowered and become "acceptable" to the American public.

The puppet troops would bear the brunt of the war and the US war of aggression would go on with less troubles for the US at home and abroad.

The "puppet troops + US fire power" formula was experimented by the "Eastern Pentagon" in 1969 in some sectors as the Western High Plateaux, Saigon area and Mekong delta with the following results:

In May, the Dak To area, in the northernmost part of the Western High Plateaux, 150km south-southwest of Da Nang, which had been transferred to the puppet 4th Regiment, was soon the theatre of a large-scale PLAF offensive. To rescue that regiment, 8 battalions of the puppet 4th and "Ranger" Regiments were hurriedly hurled into the battle while B-52 "Stratofortresses" dropped daily on the hamlets from 500 to 1,000 tons of bombs. Elements of the US 4th Infantry Division which formerly operated in that sector also had to intervene. This was the Ben Het-Plei-Cai campaign which was the talk of the town at that time. After over two months all the twelve puppet battalions were more or less depleted. On their part, the GIs took 500 casualties and nearly 200 choppers and planes were downed or damaged. On July 7, AP described as "disappointing" the results of that first experimentation conducted to see whether puppet ground force could hold out without assistance from US infantry.

Meanwhile, about 80km east-northeast of Saigon, a second experimentation of "Vietnamization" was carried out in the Long Khanh province by the puppet 18th Infantry Division reinforced on recommendation from the US command by fresh contingents of officers and men. In 17 days, from May 8 to 24, in Dinh Quan-Tam Bang region, 8 battalions and 2 armoured squadrons of that unit were whittled down and the 43rd Regiment virtually knocked out.

There was also the case of the puppet 15th Armoured Regiment on the same Saigon front. That unit was newly set up at the beginning of 1969 by the US 11th Armoured Regiment, the only American regiment of that kind in South Viet Nam, of which it was the natural substitute. In a seven-day engagement in the Binh Long sector in August, it was put out of action as well as the puppet 9th, 6th and 21st divisions stationed in the Mekong Delta was not up to the mark.

Impartial observers unanimously recognized these facts and gave a scathing denial to the enigmatic assertions of the Washington authorities who claimed that the puppet troops had been overnight improved.

No doubt, if to give more

sting to the puppet troops, it had been enough to equip them with a huge armory and materials and to beef up their build-up by an intensified draft, the US would not have committed to South Viet Nam from 1965 to 1968 60,000 GIs and mercenaries from satellite countries. Five years ago, officered by 30,000 American "advisors", the puppet army—which was Vietnamese by name only—was beaten hollow in the "special war". In the "local war" waged in the following stage of US escalation, it did not fare better and also played the role of "extras". Now that the American

fire-power achieved by their high degree of industrialization. The disappointment they experienced in this respect has touched off a lot of squabbling in the US ruling circles with regard to the role played by technology and armament in such a war as waged in Viet Nam. It is however interesting to note a little difference this time. Johnson put into gear the US war machine in 1965 in an attempt to crush the Vietnamese resistance and snatched a quick military decision. Now Nixon, who is perhaps more realistic, hopes only to "hohi", to drag out the war and sustain an "endurance" test with the Vietnamese people in order to seek an avenue of escape favourable to the US imperialists' neo-colonialist interests.

However, 1969 showed the illnessness of these hopes. In the above-mentioned Ben Het-Plei-Cai campaign, there were 60 B-52 raids and 917 sorties of US tactical planes. In the Dac Lap-Bu Prang-Bu Dap sector, in 7 weeks, 17,000 tons of bombs were rained by B-52s and 2,000 tons by fighter-bombers, etc... without being able to stave off the puppet trots disaster.

THIS driven into an impasse, the American imperialists rack their brains for a formula enabling them to reach their more and more problematic goal. Their calculations have proved wrong.

The bankruptcy of the "special war" had sealed the fate of the formula: puppet ground force + US fire power. The US land force + US fire power formula has also fizzled out with the "local war".

Returning to the "improved" version of the "puppet ground force + US fire power" formula, Nixon only bares his obstinacy to hopelessly continue Johnson's criminal war. It's no more possible to alter the course of events, for the root of Nixon's formula has always been:

Puppet ground force + US fire power = setback of the US and quislings.



American tank captured by the PLAF

Military Operations

MEKONG DELTA

BEWEEN Jan. 1 and 15, in Ben Tre province, PLAF men killed 922, wounded 313 and captured 4 enemy troops in 120 engagements, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported. Besides, 786 members of the puppet army joined the ranks of the patriotic forces. In total, more than 3,000 men, including 21 officers, were put out of action. In these attacks, two companies and 5 platoons of puppet "marines" were annihilated, 2 regional companies decimated, 3 cannons and 7 vehicles destroyed and a great quantity of weapons seized.

In a big sweep mounted by the enemy in 4 districts of Tra Vinh province, since Jan. 1 last, the PLAF killed or wounded 700 puppet troops and grounded 10 choppers after 11 days of fierce battles. Dozens of militarymen of the puppet army crossed over to the people's side.

The same source reported that in Chau Doc province, the enemy took about 450 casualties between Jan. 9 and 14. On the night of Jan. 13, at Ba Xoi alone, the PLAF wiped out 3 puppet companies, all the American "advisers", the command of a riverine task force, 100 enemy troops put out of action, a vessel, 2 cannons and 4 military vehicles wrecked.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH
ERN TRUNG BO

GIAI PHONG Press Agency laid stress on the following operations:

— Da Nang sector: an

nihilation of 240 adverse troops including 80 GIs and South Korean mercenaries (40 in the 2nd town district) on Jan. 3, 4 and 6, 1970.

— Tam Ky sector: routing of a big sweep West of the provincial capital covered by armoured vehicles and aircraft from Jan. 6 to 8; over 400 enemy casualties, including one hundred GIs, 18 out of 23 armoured vehicles destroyed and 10 choppers downed.

— Quang Ngai sector: PLAF attacks of 36 enemy positions from Jan. 3 to 7; 550 enemy casualties including 273 American, a battalion CP and a US artillery company annihilated, a US battalion, a US company and a puppet battalion badly mauled, 2 cannons and 5 military vehicles destroyed.

— Binh Dinh sector: PLAF onset on a South Korean regimental CP, 2km from Qui Nhon town, on Jan. 4; about one hundred men including 60 officers killed or wounded. Interception on Jan. 6 of a truck convoy of South Korean mercenaries on Road No. 19 East of An Khe: 15 vehicles destroyed, 30 enemy casualties. On Jan. 18, another column suffered the same fate, Western press reported.

— Binh Thuan sector: PLAF attacks on 5 districts and Phan Thiet provincial capital on the night of Jan. 6: 600 enemy casualties.

— Da Lat sector: storming of Cam Ly airfield and an important urban centre on the night of Jan. 6, followed by clashes with enemy counter-attacking

forces: over 200 adverse troops put out of action, 73 vehicles wrecked, 4 fuel tanks burnt.

OTHER OPERATIONS

In Tay Ninh province, 200 enemy troops including 150 GIs put out of action, 13 vehicles destroyed near Go Dau, about 60km Northwest of Saigon on Jan. 8 and 9. In the battles about 40km Northeast of Tay Ninh town between Dec. 30 and Jan. 11, the enemy took 335 casualties (215 GIs) and had 17 choppers downed and 7 tanks and armoured cars destroyed.

In the mountainous sector of Quang Tri and Thua Thien area (between Khe Sanh and A Bia), from Jan. 2 to 17, 20 planes and choppers were grounded and 6 were damaged. On Jan. 2, 8 choppers were knocked out of the skies South of Khe Sanh, and on Jan. 17 a spotted chopper was grounded, killing an American colonel, the deputy commander of the US artillery unit at Tri-Thien.

Western agencies reported that at least 110 targets were bombed by the PLAF in 3 nights: 30 on Jan. 18 (21 in the Mekong Delta), 20 on Jan. 19 including a subsector CP in Gia Cong province, south of Saigon, and 60 on Jan. 20 including Bien Hoa airbase, the HQ of the US Army at Long Binh, the HQ of the First Cav. at Phuoc Vinh, the HQ of a brigade of the Tropical Lightning, near Tay Ninh, Phan Rang air base, and Phan Thiet and Gia Nghia provincial capitals (Southern Trung Bo).

Medicinal drugs being manufactured in a laboratory of South Viet Nam free zone



News from Saigon

★ Students Denounce GIs and South Korean Mercenaries' Massacre of Civilians

In a teach-in at the An Quang pagoda on Jan. 15 last, attended by Buddhist leaders, politicians and senators, 300 students denounced the massacre of civilians at Phuoc Yen in 1969 by South Korean troops and GIs as a crime which "outraged the ways and customs of the Vietnamese". Western sources reported. They strongly

took to task the Saigon authorities for hushing up the truth. A "senator" flayed the puppet administration for "bringing soldiers to kill children of the home coop". A Buddhist leader unmasked Thieu as a Washington placeman "protected by armoured cars and canons."

★ Monsters

The Saigon press revealed that owing to increased sprayings of toxic chemicals, many women had, over the last few months, given birth to monsters. According to the *Saigon Sunday Post* in November, a woman was delivered of a monster having a fair-complexioned face,

a black and scaled body and footless twin legs. *Tia Sang* reported that at the Tu Du hospital and Hung Vuong hospital in districts 1 and 5 "lizard-men" (Okinawa disease). In the first half of 1969, there were 49 cases of these spawnings involving mostly country-women.

★ Economic Crisis

The same source disclosed that prices had been spiraling up and inflation was a "persistent problem". The cost of living had soared by 34 per cent in the last four months compared with the corresponding period of 1968. In the first week of 1970, the prices of grain rose by 35 per cent and of other com-

modities by 29 per cent, those of some imported goods by 75 per cent (*UPI*, Jan. 8).

The devaluation of the piastre was catastrophic.

The piastre fell from 350 piastres in the black market, while the official exchange rate is 18 only. The slump continues on the threshold of 1970, *UPI* said.

★ Thieu Threatens Repression against the Campaign in Favour of a Neutralist Union Government

On Jan. 13, at Vung Tau, Nguyen Van Thieu fulminated against the opponents of the neutralist campaign. The resistance forces should be crushed and all "co-operation" with the NFL and

DRVN rejected. The advocates of a political solution were also threatened. "We are going to suppress all campaigns in favour of a neutralist union government," he said.

★ Internal Rivalries among Puppets

AFP reported on Jan. 13 that Thieu had wrought a change in his diplomatic personnel on the other hand, Western sources said that Generals Nguyen Thanh Hoang, commanding the puppet 7th Division, and Lam Son, commanding the Special Forces at Nha Trang, and

Colonel Do Kim Giai, commanding the 18th Division, had been sacked together with many other field officers in the Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh area, the Western High Plateaux, the 44th Special Area, etc. There was rumor of a Thieu plan to remove from 12 to 14 provincial chiefs.

★ The US Command Afraid of Truth

According to *USIS* of Jan. 16, the US Command based all statements by NFL-released POWs on the humane treatments they had received during their detention. This decision was

taken as a result of declarations made by 3 GIs set free in November and 2 others in December last. One of them said he would never fight against the South Vietnamese people again.